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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 10 May the Czechoslovak Government and the Political Secretariat of the Czechoslovak Communist Party were informed by Valerian Zorin, Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, that the Soviet Government and Soviet Politburo desired fundamental changes in the status of the president of Czechoslovakia. The Soviet view, as expressed by Zorin, was that the constitutions of the satellite states should be homogenized, and that it is urgent to abolish the present differences between the legal position and executive power of the president of Czechoslovakia and those of similar officers in Poland and Hungary.
2. The Soviet Government is uncompromisingly opposed to all forms of personal leadership and expressed its preference for collective leadership in the form of a presidium.
3. The Soviet demands caused the greatest concern to the Czechoslovak Government and to the Political Secretariat of the Czech Communist Party, as their fulfillment will necessarily and seriously involve the position of President Klement Gottwald.
4. Efforts are now being made in Prague to introduce changes into the constitution without producing immediate changes in Gottwald's position and prestige. The general opinion within the Party is that the necessary changes can be made if Gottwald can be persuaded to make concessions. The negotiations are being conducted by Dr. Jaromir Dolansky, Deputy Prime Minister.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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